

Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This seventh report, which also includes supplemental reporting as required by section 1203(a) of Public Law 105–261, provides an updated assessment of progress on the benchmarks covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2002.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 4, 2003.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on Plan  
Colombia**

*February 4, 2003*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to Public Law 106–246, section 3204(e), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the last two quarters of Fiscal Year 2002 in support of Plan Colombia.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 4, 2003.

**Statement on Legislation To  
Implement the Community and  
Faith-Based Initiative**

*February 5, 2003*

I applaud the Senate Finance Committee, under the leadership of Senators Grassley and Baucus, for moving quickly on a key component of bipartisan faith-based legislation sponsored by Senators Santorum and Lieberman. Today's action brings us one step closer to creating incentives for Americans to donate more to charities, many of which are facing tough financial times. We must also work to level the playing field for community and faith-based organizations that provide effective social services to our fellow citizens who are in need. I look forward to

working closely with the Senate and House to improve the legislation to get a strong, bipartisan faith-based bill on my desk as soon as possible. Together, we can help encourage acts of compassion that can transform our Nation, one heart and one soul at a time.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Norway-United  
States Agreement on Social Security**

*February 5, 2003*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Norway on Social Security, with a related administrative agreement, both signed at Oslo on November 30, 2001. This revised Agreement is intended to modify certain provisions of the original United States and Norwegian Agreement, which was signed in Washington on January 13, 1983, and, upon its entry into force, will replace the 1983 Agreement.

The revised United States-Norwegian Agreement is similar in objective to the other social security agreements already in force with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The revised United States-Norwegian Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions, which I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key

points of the Agreement, along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of the principal agreement and the administrative agreement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the United States Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the United States-Norwegian Social Security Agreement and related documents.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 5, 2003.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting Proposed Legislation  
To Establish the Millennium  
Challenge Account and the  
Millennium Challenge Corporation**

*February 5, 2003*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit a legislative proposal to establish the Millennium Challenge Account and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis.

The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) represents a new approach to providing and delivering development assistance. This new compact for development breaks with the past by tying increased assistance to performance and creating new accountability for all nations. This proposal implements my commitment to increase current levels of core development assistance by 50 percent over the next 3 years, thus providing an annual increase of \$5 billion by fiscal year 2006. To be eligible for this new assistance, countries must demonstrate commitment to three standards—ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom. Given this commitment, and the link between financial accountability and

development success, special attention will be given to fighting corruption.

The goal of the Millennium Challenge Account initiative is to reduce poverty by significantly increasing economic growth in recipient countries through a variety of targeted investments. The MCA will be administered by a new, small Government corporation, called the Millennium Challenge Corporation, designed to support innovative strategies and to ensure accountability for measurable results. The Corporation will be supervised by a Board of Directors chaired by the Secretary of State and composed of other Cabinet-level officials. The Corporation will be led by a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This proposal provides the Corporation with flexible authorities to optimize program implementation, contracting, and personnel selection while pursuing innovative strategies.

The Millennium Challenge Account initiative recognizes the need for country ownership, financial oversight, and accountability for results to ensure effective assistance. We cannot accept permanent poverty in a world of progress. The MCA will provide people in developing nations the tools they need to seize the opportunities of the global economy. I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this legislation.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 5, 2003.

**Remarks at the National Prayer  
Breakfast**

*February 6, 2003*

Thank you all for that warm welcome. Great introduction—[laughter]—especially since you mentioned Laura. [Laughter] I want to thank the Speaker and Leader Pelosi. Ray, I want to thank you very much for being the chairman of the National Prayer Breakfast. I was wondering why the Grace Singers from Peoria managed to get here—[laughter]—but I'm sure glad they did. Thank you all for coming. It might have been the best decision you made, Mr. Chairman. [Laughter]